



It's All About the Animals!

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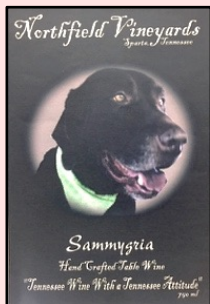
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**Donate to  
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You may specify how your  
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Please go to our Website:  
friendsofwhitecountyanimals.com  
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Tribute or Memorial Donation

# Pet Appreciation Week

June 7-13, 2020



## Leave Them Be™

Many of us have had the experience of finding animals and birds appearing to be abandoned and vulnerable. With the best of intentions our first instinct is usually to “rescue” them and move to a different environment and take care of them – but – that may not be best for them.

*Kittens need their mothers!*

*Alley Cat Allies has launched a new campaign: Leave Them Be™ and we wanted to share some of their findings on mother cats and kittens.*

It is very critical that we know what to do when we find a kitten or kittens outside. Alley Cat Allies’ advice is to save kitten’s lives by leaving them with their mother in their outdoor home.

Since March 2020, the outbreak of Covid-19 in the US has led animal shelters and humane organizations to drastically reduce their staff and volunteers. This era of unprecedented difficulty is coinciding with kitten season, the time of the year when those organizations receive hundreds of calls from people asking for help with kittens outdoors.

It is important now, more than ever, to arm every organization and advocate with the means to educate their communities that kittens are best with their mother.

When someone finds a tiny kitten meowing under their porch or even a whole litter of kittens huddled under a bush outdoors, they may want to help immediately but not know what to do.

Compassion is a good impulse, but our actions must always be guided by what is in a cat’s best interest. That means allowing kittens and moms who are already thriving outdoors to stay right where they are.

The truth is, in nearly all cases, kittens outdoors don’t need to be “rescued”. In fact, removing kittens from their mothers and bringing them indoors can be detrimental to their wellbeing. If you see kittens alone, their mother is likely close by—and her instincts make her their best possible caregiver.

The best thing you can do is Leave Them Be because Mother knows best.

There’s a reason those words are a key nugget of wisdom – especially in the world of animals. No matter how many years of experience we gain bottle feeding and raising kittens, we will never be able to match a mother cat’s instinctual form of care. Plus, it takes monumental efforts on our part to provide the round-the-clock care that unweaned and neonatal kittens (kittens under 4 weeks old) need to survive.

"A kitten is, in the animal world,  
what a rosebud is in the  
garden."  
~Robert Sowthey

## Wags and Purrs

Friends of  
White County Animals

***Pet Expo - July 18***

Hyder-Burks Cookeville

***Wine 'n Wags - Sept. 12***

Northfield Vineyards

[friendsofwhitecountyanimals.com](http://friendsofwhitecountyanimals.com)

**White Co. Humane Society**  
931-935-8377

*White County Animal Shelter*  
931-761-3647

### How You Can Help

- **P**urchase customized license plates that benefit animals
- **A**dvocate for animals by writing to newspapers and legislative representatives
- **W**elfare legislation support for animals
- **S**ocial Media networking animals needing rescue or help
- **S**pay & Neuter your pets
- **A**dopt from shelters or rescues
- **V**olunteer with organizations that help animals
- **E**ducate kids to care for animals gently and responsibly
- **D**onate financially to organizations that help animals

Like us on Facebook  
Friends of White County Animals  
Sign Up for our FWCA Newsletter  
on our website:

[friendsofwhitecountyanimals.org](http://friendsofwhitecountyanimals.org)

PO Box 6231  
Sparta, TN 38583

Contact us:  
[friendsofwhitecountyanimals@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwhitecountyanimals@gmail.com)  
A 501(c)3 non-profit organization

A mother cat who lives outdoors knows just how to protect her kittens and doesn't need our intervention. Give her a few basic essentials (shelter and food and water) and then let her do her job. Leave Them Be until the kittens are no longer nursing (meaning they are weaned), when they are around 8 weeks old.

If you find kittens outdoors without their mother, do not assume they don't have one. Watch for a few hours from a hidden spot to see if mom returns. She is likely out looking for food, is in the process of moving her kittens, or is just taking a little break.

You can help by providing their mother with essentials like:

- Regular food and water
- An outdoor shelter
- Peace and quiet. Keep an eye on mother and kittens but Leave Them Be.

What if the Kittens DO NEED HELP?

If you have waited for hours and a young kitten's mother never returns, you will have to intervene and provide care. You should also step in if the kittens or their mother look sick or injured and are clearly not thriving. Please visit Alley Cat Allies Neonatal Kitten Care Guide for more information.

~Information taken from [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org)  
*Leave Them Be™*  
~Alley Cat Allies



Your subscription to our Newsletter is appreciated and communicates to us that you care about animals and want to help.

**Thank you for Loving the Animals!**

Editor: Carolyn Turner

**Please Contact Us** on our **Facebook** page or **Website**:

<http://www.friendsofwhitecountyanimals.com>